

IN THE CLAIMS

1. -20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A method to automatically adjust a new hearing aid, comprising the steps of:

temporarily bringing a first hearing aid, having an acoustic input and an acoustic output and that has been worn by a hearing-impaired person, into active communication with a measurement device that is a separate device from, and is external to, said first hearing aid;

from a processor, operating said measurement device to obtain, by said active communication with said first hearing aid, a detected operational characteristic of said first hearing aid that represents overall operation of said first hearing aid between said acoustic input and said acoustic output of said first hearing aid;

supplying said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid from said measurement device to said processor and, in said processor, automatically analyzing said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid to obtain an analysis result and automatically determining, from said analysis result, setting parameters for electronic circuitry in a second hearing aid that is to replace said first hearing aid as a new hearing aid to be worn by said hearing-impaired person;

temporarily placing said second hearing aid in active communication with a setting device that is connected to said processor and that is a separate device from, and is external to, said second hearing aid; and

from said processor, setting said electronic circuitry in said second hearing aid with said setting parameters via said active communication between said setting device and said second hearing aid.

22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said first hearing aid has a memory in which setting parameters for electronic circuitry in said first hearing aid are stored, and wherein the step of obtaining said operational characteristic from said first hearing aid comprises reading out said setting parameters from said memory of said first hearing aid and supplying said setting parameters read from the memory of the first hearing aid to said processor, and wherein said second hearing aid has a memory connected to said electronic circuitry of said second hearing aid, and wherein the step of setting said electronic circuitry in said second hearing aid with said setting parameters determined from said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid comprises entering the setting parameters read from said memory of said first hearing aid into said memory of said second hearing aid.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said measurement device comprises a speaker and a microphone, and wherein the step of obtaining said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid comprises emitting an acoustic signal from said speaker into said acoustic input of said first hearing aid and detecting an acoustic signal with said microphone from said acoustic output of said first hearing aid, and wherein the step of automatically analyzing said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid comprises automatically identifying, as said analysis result, a transfer function of said first hearing aid, between said acoustic input and said acoustic output, as a ratio of said signal supplied to said

acoustic input of said first hearing aid and said signal emitted from said acoustic output of said first hearing aid.

24. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said measurement device is a first measurement device, and comprising placing said second hearing aid in active communication with a second measurement device, and operating said second measurement device from said processor to obtain an operational characteristic representing overall operation of said second hearing aid between an acoustic input thereof and an acoustic output thereof.

25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 24 comprising, in said processor, automatically analyzing said operational characteristic of said second hearing aid and, from said operational characteristic of said second hearing aid, automatically determining modified setting parameters and, from said processor, re-adjusting said second hearing aid according to said modified setting parameters via said active communication between said second hearing aid and said setting device.

26. (Currently amended) An adjustment device to automatically adjust a new hearing aid, comprising:

a measurement device that is separate from but configured to temporarily interact with a first hearing aid, having an acoustic input and an acoustic output and that has been worn by a hearing-impaired person, by active communication between the first hearing aid and the measurement device;

a processor connected to said measurement device that operates said measurement device to obtain, by said active communication with said

first hearing aid, a detected operational characteristic of said first hearing aid that represents overall operation of said first hearing aid between said acoustic input and said acoustic output of said first hearing aid;

said processor being configured to automatically analyze said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid to obtain an analysis result and to determine, from said analysis result, setting parameters for electronic circuitry in a second hearing aid that is to replace said first hearing aid as a new hearing aid to be worn by said hearing-impaired person;

a setting device connected to said processor, that interacts is separate from but configured to interact with said second hearing aid by temporary active communication between said setting device and said second hearing aid; and

said processor operating said setting device to set said electronic circuitry in said second hearing aid with said setting parameters via said active communication between said setting device and said second hearing aid.

27. (Previously presented) An adjustment device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said first hearing aid has a memory in which setting parameters for electronic circuitry in said first hearing aid are stored, and wherein said processor operates said measurement device to obtain said operational characteristic from said first hearing aid by reading out said setting parameters from said memory of said first hearing aid, and wherein said second hearing aid has a memory connected to said electronic circuitry of said second hearing aid, and wherein said processor operates

said setting device to said electronic circuitry of said second hearing aid with said setting parameters determined from said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid by entering the setting parameters read from said memory of said first hearing aid into said memory of said second hearing aid.

28. (Previously presented) An adjustment device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said measurement device comprises a speaker and a microphone, and wherein said processor operates said measurement device to obtain said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid by causing emission of an acoustic signal from said speaker into said acoustic input of said first hearing aid and by detecting an acoustic signal with said microphone from said acoustic output of said first hearing aid, and wherein said processor automatically analyzes said operational characteristic of said first hearing aid by automatically identifying, as said analysis result, a transfer function of said first hearing aid, between said acoustic input and said acoustic output, as a ratio of said signal supplied to said acoustic input of said first hearing aid and said signal emitted from said acoustic output of said first hearing aid.

29. (Previously presented) An adjustment device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said measurement device is a first measurement device, and comprising a second measurement device that interacts with said second hearing aid by active communication between said second measurement device and said second measurement device, and operates said second measurement device to obtain an operational characteristic representing overall operation of said second hearing aid between an acoustic input and an acoustic output of said second hearing aid.

30. (Previously presented) An adjustment device as claimed in claim 29 wherein said processor is configured to automatically analyze said operational characteristic of said second hearing aid and, from said operational characteristic of said second hearing aid, automatically determine modified setting parameters and to operate said setting device to re-adjusting said second hearing aid according to said modified setting parameters via said active communication between said second hearing aid and said setting device.